

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S: PTARNOFF:GB

APPROVED BY MR. TARNOFF

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 016108 TOSEC 010120

FOR DAN SPIEGEL FROM PETER TARNOFF

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ANTI-TERRORISM TESTIMONY

I AM TRANSMITTING BELOW THE TEXT OF A COVERING MEMO PRE-
PARED BY M/CT, S/P AND H FOR MR. VANCE'S TESTIMONY ON
MONDAY MORNING. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE HEARING WILL BE IN
OPEN SESSION.

BEGIN TEXT:

THE SETTING

THE HEARINGS WILL TAKE PLACE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF CON-
TINUED PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN OVER THE PROSPECTS
FOR AN UPSURGE OF TERRORISM IN THIS COUNTRY AND ABROAD, AS
WELL AS THE ADEQUACY OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICIES
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TO COMBAT TERRORISM. JUST AS THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S
CAPITULATION IN THE JAL HIJACKING HIGHLIGHTED THE VUL-
NERABILITY OF GOVERNMENTS TO TERRORIST BLACKMAIL, THE
SUCCESSFUL GERMAN RESCUE OPERATION AT MOGADISCIO WAS
VIEWED AS A HEARTENING DEMONSTRATION OF GOVERNMENT DETER-
MINATION AND CAPACITY TO ACT. A NUMBER OF SENATORS,
PARTICULARLY SENATORS JAVITS AND CASE, HAVE BEEN CRITICAL

OF THE US GOVERNMENT FOR NOT TAKING MORE VIGOROUS ACTION AGAINST SUCH STATES AS LIBYA AND IRAQ WHICH SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS. THEY EVIDENTLY EXPECTED SOME SIGNIFICANT NEW POLICY OR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE FROM THE PRM-30 EXERCISE LAST SUMMER, AND WERE DISAPPOINTED BY WHAT SEEMED TO THEM THE INSUBSTANTIAL RESULTS OF THIS EXERCISE.

LAST WEEK ON NBC SECRETARY KISSINGER CHARGED THAT THE USSR CONTINUES TO GIVE AID TO COUNTRIES THAT SUPPORT TERRORISM. BUT SOVIET SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM ITSELF CANNOT BE PROVED. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT, IN CONCERT WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, THIS MONTH WE ARE URGING THE SOVIET UNION TO WORK WITH US ON ANTI-TERRORIST MEASURES.

OBJECTIVES OF THE RIBICOFF BILL

KEY PROVISIONS CALL FOR THE PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES WHICH EITHER AID OR ABET TERRORIST ACTIONS OR WHICH FAIL TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE SECURITY STANDARDS AT AIRPORTS. THESE LISTINGS WOULD TRIGGER AUTOMATIC SANCTIONS. THE COMMITTEE STAFF HAS STUDIED THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH COMMENTS -- CONVEYED INFORMALLY WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE REVISION -- AND ACKNOWLEDGES THE FLAWS IN THE BILL, E.G., AUTOMATIC SANCTIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE UNILATERAL SUSPENSION OF US AIR SERVICE, PROVISIONS FOR CONTROLLING THE TRAVEL OF PERSONS DEPARTING FROM A STATE IDENTIFIED ON THE LIST. MOREOVER, STAFF CONSULTATIONS WITH WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS DURING THE RECESS MAY HAVE HIGHLIGHTED OTHER PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF AN "OMNIBUS" LEGISLATIVE APPROACH, INCLUDING THE DISRUPTIVE EFFECT WHICH THE DENUNCIATION OF BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENTS WOULD HAVE UPON INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL. IN ADDITION, THE DRAFT OPENING STATEMENT PREPARED FOR SENATOR RIBICOFF INTRODUCES A NEW THEME -- THE NEED FOR US LEADERSHIP IN FORMING A COALITION OF STATES OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS TO COMBAT "URBAN TERRORISM".

LIKELY ATMOSPHERE IN THE HEARINGS

SENATORS RIBICOFF AND JAVITS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR GRATIFICATION AT THE ADMINISTRATION'S OFFER TO WORK TOGETHER TO PRODUCE AN ACCEPTABLE BILL. SENATOR RIBICOFF HAS EMPHASIZED THAT YOUR VIEWS SHOULD BE EXPRESSED WITH COMPLETE CANDOR AND WILL BE ACCORDED THE UTMOST RESPECT. THE COMMITTEE APPARENTLY RECOGNIZES THE INHERENT COMPLEXITY OF DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND

IS NO DOUBT SENSITIVE TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF PASSING

LEGISLATION WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN "ANTI-ARAB"
BILL.

AT THE SAME TIME, IN CONNECTION WITH ITS OVERSIGHT
FUNCTIONS, THE COMMITTEE FEELS THE NEED FOR A GREATER
FLOW OF INFORMATION ON TERRORIST THREATS OR INCIDENTS,
AND WANTS TO BE REASSURED THAT FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONAL
STRUCTURE IS SUITABLE FOR THE CONTINGENCY OF AN INCREASED
TERRORIST THREAT IN THIS COUNTRY.

END TEXT.
CHRISTOPHER
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